**MEMORANDUM ON CONSIDERATION OF INCLUSIVITY CONCERNS OF YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE KISUMU COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER (KCFSP) FY 2024-2025**

**26th March 2024**

**Presented to;**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU Respondents.**

**COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE CHAIR Respondents**

**THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA Respondent.**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU Respondents.**

**COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE CHAIR Respondents**

**THE GORVERNOR HON PETER ANYANG NYONGO Respondent.**

**THE HON COUNTY SECRETARY OF KISUMU Respondent.**

**THE COUNTY BUDGET ECONOMIC FORUM Respondent.**

**THE CECM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONTECHNICAL TRAINING INNOVATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE. Respondent.**

**THE CECM DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS CULTURE GENDER AND YOUTH AFFAIRS Respondent.**

**THE CECM –DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT Respondent.**

**THE CECM-MEDICAL SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION Respondent.**

**THE CECM DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.**

**THE CECM EDUCATION SPORTS AND CUTURE KISUMU COUNTY Respondents.**

**THE CECM WATER, ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE Respondent.**

**THE CECM FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND ICT Respondent.**

**THE CECM AGRICUTURE, FISHERIES LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND IRRIGATION Respondent.**

**THE CECM INFRUSTRUCTURE ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORKS Respondent.**

**THE CECM TRADE TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND MARKETING Respondent.**

The humble memoranda listed in the annexure are all care of Cheshire Disability Services of Kenya, through the Make Way Programme, and Young persons with disabilities, non-state actors in Kisumu County. The lead petitioners are Kenyan citizens exercising their sovereign power directly under Article One of the Constitution in presenting this Petition in the public interest. We are guided by the fundamental rights and freedoms outlined in Chapter 4 of the 2010 Constitution, specifically the Bill of Rights. These rights include: Freedom of conscience, religion, belief, and opinion. We articulate Article 37 of the Constitution, which confers upon every person the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket, and present petitions to public authorities, in a peaceful and unarmed manner.

**The Lead Petitioners**

The undersigned, representing Young People with disability, residing in Kisumu County, Kenya, hereby submit this petition for consideration of inclusivity concerns of young persons with disabilities in the Kisumu County Fiscal Strategy Paper (KCSFP) Fiscal Year 2024-2025. This petition is presented on behalf of young people with disability by the following lead petitioners each representing young people as mentioned above.

1. Willis Ochieng’
2. Brenda Nyawira
3. Lydia Achieng
4. Mercy Chinuyi
5. Kennedy Gumba
6. Serphine Njeri
7. Vilda Atieno

**Introduction**

In Kenya, the Constitution envisages a more inclusive role of citizens in all stages of the county planning and budget processes. The provision of article 10(2a) and 220(2) of the constitution of Kenya, 2010 read together with sections 6(6), 87, 104(4), 106(4); the County Government Act, 2012 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (section 126) stipulate the importance of public participation. In Kisumu County, the enjoyment of this constitutional right has been impeded by the inability of the citizenry to comprehend, understand, and utilize county budgeting and planning data to hold the county leadership and duty bearer accountable. Effective participation requires that citizens understand county planning, budgeting, and implementation data that should be readily available for them to engage in safeguarding public resources from corruption and lack of accountability and transparency. It is observed that while the causes of duty-bearer reluctance are complex and manifold, it has devastating effect of public service delivery in the county. The poor engagement of the duty-bearers to involve young persons with disability has resulted in severe accountability deficits ranging from poorly designed policies to the exclusion of young persons with disabilities from decision-making processes.

We the petitioners in this memorandum are cognizant of the County Government’s commitments in the Kisumu County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) Fiscal Year 2024/2025 that marks the 2nd year of implementation of the Third County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027. We herein underscore the commitment to underpin interventions in this Kisumu County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) Fiscal Year 2024/2025 that are geared towards Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women, Youth, and PWDs. It is in this context that we present our prayers herein:

**Petitioners’ 1st Prayer**

The Department of Finance Economic Planning and ICT Services has committed to improving public finance management and policy planning, budgeting, and M &E and enhancing service delivery through digitization and automation of government services. Additionally, the M &E, the department will implement four key subprograms including budget coordination and management, policy planning and budgeting, county statistical system, and M&E. Particularly, the department will prepare four quarterly budget and expenditure reports, annual budget and expenditure reports.

*It is our prayer that the department ensures that digitization and automation of government services consider the use of disability-friendly technology to ensure that young people with disabilities have access to these services without hindrances or biases as a result of their disabilities. The M&E Directorate should ensure that quarterly and annual budget and expenditure reports are presented in disability-user-friendly formats for easy comprehension and use by persons with disabilities to enhance their participation in monitoring the use of county resources effectively. We recommend that the ICT directorate consider strategic engagement and involvement of young people with disabilities in the digital literacy training for youths and disadvantaged County populace*.

**Petitioners’ 2nd Prayer**

The Trade, Tourism, Industry & Marketing Department has prioritized infrastructural development of markets and governance enhancement to improve the business environment. The infrastructural development includes; the construction of 3 Modern Markets, 4 livestock yards, stalls, 20 market sheds, modern toilets, ablution blocks, market offices countywide, murraming, fencing, gating, and renovations. The department will also operationalization the Kisumu County Enterprise Fund providing affordable and flexible credit to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and providing business accelerator programs like the Entrepreneurship Clinic, promotion of local products, incubations, exhibitions, business support services, entrepreneurship skills development and monitoring & evaluation of business growth.

*It is our prayer the department in its commitment to the infrastructural development of markets should ensure barrier-free access for persons with disabilities in all the market facilities. The precincts of the marketplaces, market sheds, ablution blocks, and entrances to those buildings and other amenities, must be barrier-free for users with disabilities. The Department should also ring-fence allocation for young people with disabilities in the provision of Kisumu County Enterprise Fund, business accelerator programs, enterprise training, and business support services.*

**Petitioners’ 3rd prayer**

The Department of Medical Services, Public Health & Sanitation has prioritized progressively implementing the Primary Health Care for Universal Health Coverage. Insurance of coverage agenda of the county government by providing partial insurance subsidies to the informal sector and indigents in line with the Social Health Insurance Act, 2023;

*We pray that the department gives significant attention to improving access to quality and inclusive sexual reproductive health services during its implementation of universal health care. The department should give prominence to insurance coverage that considers the needs of young people with disabilities.*

**Petitioners’ 4th Prayer**

The Department of Education, Technical Training, and Innovation & Social Services prioritizes to equip VTC and recruit at least 84 trainers. The department has committed to improving the efficiency in the administration of the Kisumu County Education Fund by establishing a bursary and scholarships management system. Formulation of ECDE Policy and regulations to operationalize the Act; and domesticate and Operationalize National Policy for Learners with Disability, identification and assessment of Children with Disability (CWD);

*It is our prayer that the department strengthens mechanisms that will ensure an increased number of young people with disability benefiting from the Kisumu County Education Fund. We pray that the department expedites the domestication and Operationalization of the National Policy for Learners with Disability, identification, and assessment of Children with Disability (CWD). The Department should ensure the recruitment of skilled trainers who can provide disability-equitable vocational skills.*

**Petitioners’ 5th Prayer**

The Department of Sports, Culture, Gender and Youth Affairs has prioritized the establishment of a Kisumu Hall of Fame; Construction of the 4th Phase of Moi Stadium; the rehabilitation of the Obunga Football pitch; completion of Pap Kadundo Football pitch; completion of the Ogada Football Pitch; Completion of Nanga Football pitch; The construction of rescue center at Ahero Sub County Hospital; Construction of GBVC at Sigoti Health Center; fencing and equipping of Tiengre Safe House.

*It is our prayer that the department promotes disability inclusion in all sports. The department should intensify sensitization and awareness creation on GBV. The department should also enhance the effectiveness of GBV referral pathways while ensuring that young people with disabilities are well attended to and protected.*

**Petitioners’ 6th Prayer**

The City of Kisumu has prioritized Infrastructure modernization, with plans to enhance the city's drainage systems, install traffic lights for improved traffic flow, and develop non-motorized transport infrastructure to encourage sustainable and healthy mobility options. Urban renewal and management, involve the reclamation, improvement, and management of illegally acquired city properties, Additionally, satellite bus parks are slated for construction to alleviate traffic congestion and enhance public transportation efficiency.

*It is our prayer that the city of Kisumu considers the provision of disability-friendly transport infrastructure in the improvement and management of city transport. The additional satellite bus parks should have disability-friendly infrastructure including hygiene and sanitation facilities.*

**Petitioners’ End Note**

We, the petitioners, in our singular and collective responsibility, hereby undersign as follows: We trust that our voices will be heard and that appropriate action will be taken to address the concerns raised in this petition. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

THE UNDERSIGNED

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| **NAME OF PETITIONER** | **CONTACT** | **SIGNATURE** |
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